



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27th October 2009

Present Jim Gillett (Chairman), Nick Ray, Liz Black, Michael Forrer, Shirley Newman, John Illenden, Chris Drew, John Davies, and District Councillor Emma Hobbs

Apologies for absence - Alice Wilkinson and Jackie Jeffery.

4984/09 Open Forum There were no residents present.

The Chairman welcomed Nick Christo from Wokingham Borough Council to report on a number of outstanding issues.

Multi-sport Area & Playbuilder scheme.

Nick Christo started by describing the Playbuilder scheme. He explained that Wokingham Borough Council had been awarded £1.1 million to provide adventure orientated play areas for 8 to 13 year-olds, to be spent over a period of two years. The project board had met and had defined a list of sites which were considered suitable for inclusion. The park behind Charvil Village Hall has been designated as an appropriate site, and has been included in the second year (April 2010 to March 2011). Concern was expressed that Charvil was not involved in the selection of the site. Nick Christo explained that provision of an initial list had to meet a deadline, but that Charvil Parish Council would be involved in all future decisions.

Nick Christo explained that the MUGA was still being pursued and that Wokingham Borough Council are looking to the Youth Opportunity Fund to provide finance for this purpose. Councillors expressed their frustration that Charvil P C had earmarked it's contribution many years ago but that Wokingham Borough Council had reneged on their contribution, a small sum in relation to their overall budget.

Charvil Country Park

A meeting will be organised by Sam Bartram in November to discuss the many aspects of how the Charvil Country Park should be used. Activities, including fishing and walking, to involve local people will be considered. It has already been decided that Charvil Country Park should not be a closely managed park like Dinton Pastures, management should be 'Hands off'.

Map of Charvil Country Park

None of the lakes have an official name. It was suggested that this presented an opportunity for the Charvil Village Newsletter to organise a competition.

Traveller Incursion Protection at East Park Farm

Nick Christo explained the work which had already been carried out and agreed to make recommendations to Council for further improvements to prevent access onto the playing area.

Town & Parish Conference

The conference had considered improvements to make better use of the facilities already available in parishes. Joint use for some projects was proposed and Nick Christo was asked to contact Tracy Ray re the availability of the Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked Nick Christo for attending.

4985/09 Declaration Of Interest - None

4986/09 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2009 –The minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

**4987/09 Urgent Matters Arising from the above Minutes -
There were no matters arising, which were not on the agenda.**

4988/09 PLANNING

a) Applications for Information and Comment:

1888 Single storey rear extension at Strawberry Acre Farm, Beggars Hill Road. - No Parish Council Comment.

2026 Two storey side/rear extension (approved as 0821) to be further extended into garden by 1 metre at 28 Strathmore Drive. Following discussion the Clerk was asked to write as follows:-

‘This Council objected to the previous application, which contrary to this Council’s view and that of the local Planning Authority was accepted by the Inspector on Appeal. It would therefore seem appropriate for this application which increases the area of the proposed extension beyond that approved by the Inspector on appeal, should be referred back to the Inspector by this application being refused.(271/10)

2051 Application for the Consolidation and Extension of Nursing Home at Bridge House, High Street, Twyford. Following discussion the Clerk was asked to write as follows: -

This proposed extensive development would be a significant incursion into the narrow green strip which separates Charvil from Twyford. This narrow green strip is part of the Loddon Valley Country Park which extends from The River Thames to Dinton Pastures and beyond. Encroaching into the narrow green strip between settlements has been a reason for refusal on many applications to build in the green gap surrounding Charvil. The proposed development would concrete over a large area of grassland, the run-off from which would increase the flood risk from the neighbouring River Loddon. (273/10)

2061 Listed Building Application for the refurbishment and extension of Nursing Home at Bridge House, High Street, Twyford. Following discussion the Clerk was asked to write as follows:-

This proposed extensive development would be a significant incursion into the narrow green strip which separates Charvil from Twyford. This narrow green strip is part of the Loddon Valley Country Park which extends from The River Thames to Dinton Pastures and beyond. Encroaching into the narrow green strip between settlements has been a reason for refusal on many applications to build in the green gap surrounding Charvil. The proposed development would concrete over a large area of grassland, the run-off from which would increase the flood risk from the neighbouring River Loddon. (272/10)

2054 Conservation Area Application for the refurbishment and extension of Nursing Home at Bridge House, High Street, Twyford Following discussion the Clerk was asked to write as follows:-

This proposed extensive development would be a significant incursion into the narrow green strip which separates Charvil from Twyford. This narrow green strip is part of the Loddon Valley Country Park which extends from The River Thames to Dinton Pastures and beyond.

Encroaching into the narrow green strip between settlements has been a reason for refusal on many applications to build in the green gap surrounding Charvil. The proposed development would concrete over a large area of grassland, the run-off from which would increase the flood risk from the neighbouring River Loddon. (274/10)

2038 Vary condition 18 to allow part conversion of garage to habitable accommodation at 48 East Park Farm Drive. Following discussion the Clerk was asked to write as follows:-

Council is concerned that the proposed change of use will result in an increase in on-street parking. East Park Farm was a comprehensively designed development where adequate garage and off-street parking spaces were provided to compensate for the narrow roads. Changes of this kind could seriously increase street parking on the narrow roads of the estate with consequential access problems and a detrimental effect on the street scene. (275/10)

2111 Two storey rear extension plus remove existing front & side elevation of existing dwelling and remove garage at Rose Cottage, Lands End Lane. - No Parish Council Comment.

2109 Single storey rear extension at 9 Simmons Fields. - No Parish Council Comment.

b) Appeals

0338/09 Retrospective for replacement pitched roof to summer house at 13 Charvil House Rd. - No Parish Council Comment.

1282 Sandford Farm – Public Enquiry – Decision awaited

c) Approved The following approved applications were noted:-

1721 Single storey rear/side extension at 6 St Patrick's Avenue.

1551 CLPU Rear blind Dormer windows at 24 Old Bath Road.

d) Approved on Appeal The following approved application was noted:-

0821 Two storey Side and rear extensions, raise roof for loft conversion and convert garage at 28 Strathmore Drive.

e) Refused The following refused application was noted:-

1780 Two storey side extension at 17 Cheviot Drive.

f) Wokingham Borough Council – Sustainable Community Strategy – Consultation - Noted

g) Wokingham Borough Council – Design Supplementary Planning Document
Following Discussion the Clerk was asked to establish the views of Clerks at Parishes who have produced a design statement.

There being no further planning business the Planning Meeting was closed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

4988/09 Finance Reports –The Chair of Finance reviewed the monthly financial reports which were unanimously approved.

4989/09 Authorisation of Payments – Cheques as detailed including: - £500 to Loddon Valley Action Group were approved and signed.

4990/09 Donations - Following consideration Council decided unanimously to award grants of £100 to Keep Mobile and £100 to Sue Ryder Care. A thank you letter from Charvil Girls Choir was noted.

4991/09 Annual Audit - Council noted the Annual Audit return had been Signed Off.

- 4992/09 Multi Sport Area** – See Open Forum
- 4993/09 Sandford Farm Public Enquiry O/2008/1282** – Following consideration of a note from the absent Chairman of Council the award of a further donation of £500 was confirmed. Following discussion it was agreed that the budget allocation for S137 be increased by £500 by transfer from the budget allocation for ‘Consultation’. (Clerks note: - the budget for S137 is still within the legal limit.)
- 4994/09 Maps** - The map from Wokingham Borough Council was considered satisfactory and the Clerk was asked to have it mounted and framed.
- 4995/09 Review gas and electricity suppliers** - The Chair of Finance confirmed that the Council is tied for one more year of a two year contract, and that this was entered into by a unilateral decision on behalf Southern Electric. The Clerk was asked to establish from BALC if this kind of unilateral contract is enforceable by law.
- 4996/09 On line Access to Bank accounts for Transfers between accounts only.**
Following discussion the mandate form was signed.

There being no further Finance business the Finance Meeting was closed.

REPORTS

- 4997/09 Village Hall Management Committee** – The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2009 were noted.
- Electricity Usage - The Chair of Finance reported that there had been no significant rise in electricity usage over the last two years.
- Motor Nuisance in V H Car Park - Council discussed the reports from a resident of the Hawthorns about vehicles speeding around the V H car park. It was agreed that this was a police matter and that unless vehicle registration numbers are obtained there is little possibility of any action being taken.
- 4998/09 Amenities Committee** – The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2009 were noted.
- Weekly Play Inspection Procedure - Reports from the insurers and from BALC were discussed. Further information from BALC was awaited. It was agreed that until that information was available the inspection should be carried out by a member of the committee or by a paid officer.
- Vehicular Access onto St Patrick’s Recreation Ground. It was suggested that some of the work carried out by the University had made the site more vulnerable. It was understood that the university work may not yet be complete.
- 4999/09 Borough Councillor’s Report** - Councillor Hobbs reported that:-
A new PCSO has been appointed.
The ditch on Thames Drive is to be improved prior to resurfacing.
The Caravan has moved on.

ENVIRONMENT

- 5000/09 Country Park Management and Fishing Rights** – See Open Forum
- 5001/09 Fly tipping on Park Lane** – Council noted a letter from a resident of Park Lane and the response from Wokingham Borough Council.

5002/09 Replacement Tree planting at Village Hall - Council considered a request to hold a tree planting celebration on 5th December. It was arranged that if the trees can be obtained from Wokingham Borough Council, Councillor Illenden will organise a planting session at that time.

5003/09 Allotments - The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Mrs. Goodburn re use of her Garden.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5004/09 Rurality for Pharmacy - The appeal was refused. Charvil stays defined as Rural.

5005/09 Borough- Parish Conference 22 October 2009 - No one attended.

5006/09 BALC AGM - 7th November – 10.30 am - No one available to attend.

5007/09 NALC Quality Council Seminar 30th October - No one available to attend.

5008/09 Fire Authority Risk Management Plan – Consultation Document circulated

5009/09 Charvil.com modifications. - Deferred to next meeting

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Documents circulated after the meeting : - *Wokingham Borough Council Meetings / Agendas, Fire Authority Risk Management Plan. Staff Bulletin, Berkshire Echo, Wokingham Biodiversity Forum Minutes, Open Spaces.*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm

(Documents to be circulated after the meeting).

.....Signature
Chairman of the Council

Signed on 24 November 2009